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Surgeon General’s Medical Corps Birthday Message

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By Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general, and chief, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery



On behalf of Navy Medicine and a grateful nation, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Navy Medical Corps as they celebrate 142 years of faithful and dedicated service on March 3rd. Since 1871, when the 41st Congress enacted the Appropriations Act which established the Medical Corps as a separate entity and as a Staff Corps, you have come a long way.

The Medical Corps’ role has grown in both complexity and value over the past 142 years. Our Medical Corps personnel perform in the toughest at-sea and expeditionary environments that include missions across

the spectrum – from kinetic warfare to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. Navy physicians also serve in aviation and undersea medicine and as astronauts, exploring the frontiers of space. The Medical Corps continues to pave new frontiers in biomedical research, medical education and training, and patient care delivery at our clinics, hospitals, aboard our afloat platforms, and in combat theaters.

Our Navy physicians are deeply committed to the highest quality of care. From providing care to patients in a medical treatment facility or during a humanitarian assistance mission overseas, our status with the American people has never been higher. You continue to set the bar high and answer the bell. You stand up when called and step forward when needed.

To the thousands of active duty and Reserve Medical Corps Officers, I convey my deepest gratitude for your selfless service, your dedication to duty and your sacrifice in order to accomplish the mission and serve those who serve. I am so proud to be your shipmate and it is my honor to serve with you.

Navy Medicine Video

Navy Medicine is a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

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